

1860 more than 120 new companies
 connected with electrical engineering were
 established in England. Their aggregate capita-
 tion was upward of \$65,000,000.
 The ten largest cities in the world, according to
 last returns, are:—London, Paris, New York,
 Antwerp, Berlin, Vienna, Tokio, Chicago, Phila-
 delphia, St. Petersburg. In the order mentioned.
 Chinese official of high rank informed us the
 other day that the estimated population of Canton
 is close upon three millions.
 The *Empress of India*, which arrived at
 Hongkong on the 9th inst., made the run from
 Shanghai to Guttsalf in under 48 hours, the
 previous best time being the *Orlando's* 49 hours,
 45 minutes. She arrived at Woosung at 3 45 p.m.,
 making the run from Hongkong to Woosung in
 3 days 3 hours, an average speed for the whole
 distance of just under 16 knots.
 The members of the Hongkong Choral Society
 will appear at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on
 the evenings of Saturday and Monday next in
 Mr. J. J. Sullivan's comic opera (music by Sir Arthur
 Sullivan) "The Contrabandists." The cast,
 which will be found in our advertising columns,
 is reputed to be efficient all round, and a capital
 performance is confidently promised by those
 who created. A special feature in the representa-
 tion will be the introduction of the "Cachucha,"
 which has since its first such marked success in
 London, been the order of the day. Tickets for the performances
 "The Gendollers." Tickets for the performances
 to be obtained at Messrs. Lane, Crawford &
 Co.'s.
 Mr. Froude, in his monograph on Beaconsfield:
 "Disraeli failed, as he deserved to fail. He
 sought that he was twisting patriotic enthusiasm,
 and that he did was to create jingoism. He
 was a public man in England ever rose to high
 office, and he was a great, at least, a little of whose
 work has survived him. Possibly if he had
 other gifts he had inherited an English
 character, he might have devoted himself more
 completely to great national questions; he might
 have inscribed his name in the great roll
 of English worthies. But he was English only
 adoption, and he never completely identified
 himself with the country which he ruled. At
 heart he was a Hebrew to the end."
 Last night's *Telegraph* we published the
 following problem :—
 "My age, if multiplied by three,
 is two-sevenths of that product would tripled be,
 the square root of two-ninths of that is four."
 Now tell me my age or never see me more."
 A lady reader sends this solution—
 "Your age being twenty-eight, if multiplied by
 three,
 will give the product eighty-four, as all may
 plainly see ;
 two-sevenths tripled, produce the number, and
 no more,
 the square root of two-ninths of which is four."
 The ordinary pay for making match-boxes in
 London is 2½d. a gross, though in one instance
 the newly-formed Union has forced the price up
 to 3d. Working from seven in the morning till
 11 or eleven at night, and often all night on
 Fridays, women can earn extra from 5s. 6d. to 7s. a
 week of what is now at 6d. at least, much good
 earnings. No wonder the matchmaking com-
 pany pay! No wonder the big firms who employ
 these women declare dividends of 22 and 25 per
 cent. And what does it matter (asks a Radical
 paper) if, in order to put on an extra 1 per cent,
 hundreds of women are compelled to exist under
 conditions which make life a mockery, pleasure
 thing unknown, and virtue slow suicide?
 There is no law of man against it.
 We learn that telegraphic advice has been
 received by the Balmoral Adfco Mining Co.,
 Ltd. from their Sydney agent, reporting all the
 drills and battery (20 stamps) to be working.
 Written advices dated the 10th and 21st March
 were received per *Guthrie*. Mr. Chapple, the
 company's assayer at the mine, reports having
 analysed assays of "Selection" and "Vale" tallies
 which gave the following results—
 Tallies from "Selection" Battery.

	oz.	dwt.	grs.
No. 1.....	1	6	3
No. 2.....	1	12	10
No. 3.....	1	15	32

 Tallies from "Vale" Battery.

No. 1.....	2	3	11
No. 2.....	1	19	4
No. 3.....	3	3	17

 On this subject Mr. Gregory writes as follows :—
 "The assays of a large heap of tallies at
 "Vale" are too good to be true, and I have
 asked Mr. Walton (the Mining Manager) to pick
 half a dozen samples and have check assays
 made, which no doubt will be included in his
 next report. There are fully 8,000 tons at the
 mine. The other assays, from Oliver's freehold,
 are for the tallies left over from the Queen's
 late Mining Manager) crushing of the first
 one mined by the Co." On receipt of the
 above written advices the following telegram
 was despatched from here yesterday:—"Tele-
 graphic corrected assays "Selection" "Vale"
 tallies, and the answer received to-day is as
 follows:—"Both average 1 ounce 13 dwts. per
 ton."
 The *Australasian* Reginald finds one of the chief comforts
 of his travelling years is supervising the Court
 Circular, and at intervals has the royal foot
 stompers scum upon the bruised insect who
 officiates as sub-editor of that high-toned organ.
 Nothing is expected of the sub. save strict atten-
 tion to detail and a proper capacity for correcting
 the Sovereign Lady's orthography, and touching
 her syntax, which latter is very apt to get
 mixed. The Queen sends along her "copy"
 written by a Maid of Honor, or a Groom of the
 Chamber, or some person of that description—
 the sub. must have the royal foot stompers
 dealing with a wet towel dead round his neck
 to print slips stating that "Her Majesty
 the Queen, gentle walking exercise," and "The
 extraordinary Grand Duke Nicholas has left the
 castle," which slips are nightly issued to a few
 London newspapers, previous to being collected
 for a solemn weekly issue of the Circular.
 When the Queen happens to be staying at
 Windsor, she glances over her handwork each
 morning, and if any German prince has lost
 his crown, she has done the royal foot stompers
 the mistake to be rectified in next
 issue's bit of Circular, and sees that the sub-
 editor's beer is stopped pending the correc-
 tion, and when the full edition appears it
 is, of course, free from blemish. Sometimes,
 however, circumstances occur, which no has no
 control, as an error to appear in the weekly
 issue, the actual official secret of England's great-
 ness, (The *Times*, by the Grace of God, not
 stating that the late Lord Lyons, the French
 sub-editor, sends telegrams direct to the daily news-
 papers from Scotland, or Germany, or wherever she was
 saying when the awful mistake occurred, and
 the sub. turns pale as he sees a paragraph of
 is description glaring at him from the columns
 of the *Morning Post*—"The statue of the late
 Emperor Frederick of Germany was unveiled
 the Queen on Thursday last, immediately
 after, and not after, the last anthem was sung
 the service which was performed, it was
 stated, that the Queen, in the City of Paris,
 the Queen's coronation is well recorded, and four
 literary point of view, last, a correction at the
 end of the line, and the line is correct."

LADY FLORENCE DIXON on the O'Shea situation: "I am not aware that at present women are slaves, and that man's law has laid down the rule that a woman may have no friend outside her husband. It is a law that would vanish with woman's education and power of freedom. The conclusion I have arrived at after reading the trial is that Mrs. O'Shea was forsaken by her husband, and made friends with Mr. Parnell. Treated by her husband as a mere beast of burden, Mr. Parnell treated her as a friend. I recognize no law but the true law of justice. One man appreciated her, the other treated her only as the law regards her—as his slave. If Mr. Parnell has sinned, let the greater number of our politicians and statesmen rise from public life, for they are worse than he."

THE return of the *Kiangsu*, after a thorough overhaul, to the Canton river service, followed by the *Shan* of the new river steamer *Tsien*, on the same route, has resulted in all-round reduction of fares—much to the delight of the "heavenly Chinese," who freely admit that opposition is the life of trade. The Steamboat Co.'s day boats now carry Chinese on the lower deck at ten cents *per capita*, while the night boats carry them to and from Canton for 20 cents each. First-class Chinese passengers are taken for 50 cents instead of a dollar, as heretofore. Added to this Chinese shippers inform us that they can now send cargo by the Steamboat Co.'s vessels at 50 per cent less freight than formerly, which brings the charge for general cargo down to the *Kiangsu's* and *Tai-shan's* rates. On the Canton-Macao run, too, there has been a heavy reduction in passenger fares, the China Merchants' steamer *Kiang Ping* having reduced the charge for Chinese from 50 cents per head to 20 cents; the opposition boat, *White Cloud*, has come down to the same level and is carrying all who can find room for free. It is a question if this cut-throat business will end it is difficult to determine at present, but sure it is that the foreign-owned river steamers are engaged in a desperate attempt to "run off" the Chinese owned vessels, while the latter having substantial Chinese backing and are doing what they claim is a rattling business, turning in at least 8 per cent on capital invested. But when will the foreign passengers get reasonable rates?

In his racing notes the tipster of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—The Shanghai Spring Meeting of 1891 bids fair to be one of the most open as regards griffins as we have seen for a long time, as so far there is really nothing that stands clean out from the rest. On the other hand there are some 6 or 8 ponies that have all done really very good performances as regards time, and yet it is doubtful if the griffins on the whole can be classed as a first-class lot. There are rumours of one or two "mokes" that have been brought down specially to beat *Horo*. One of these flyers was sold at auction the other night at Tia. 13, and it is a question if some of the others are worth as much. The big stable hand who exhibited anything to justify the fears that he might express that Mr. Sassoon will simply clear the board. He may have something dark, but on public form it is about even money that he does not win a single griffin race. As regards the old ponies he is certainly very strong, and it looks as if we shall see a series of processions when *Horo* or *Zephyr* start. *Eureka* is going rather stiffly, but it must be remembered that he is one of the best and gamest animals we have ever seen, and I quite expect to see him pull off the first race he goes for even if he comes in dead "fame afterwards," which I shall be very sorry to see. It is said that Mr. Hough, the Clerk of the Course, intends opening the grass course on Saturday, the 11th inst., in which case I shall be able to send you some times of the favourites.

PORTUGAL will ere long, unless present indications are at fault, give another of the illustrations so frequent in her recent history of the rapidity with which a nation once the downy and golden clouds of peace and prosperity, and the Boston *Transfer*, when in Portugal did not "hold the golden East in fee" she at least divided possession of it with Venice. In those days when she was a great power on sea and land, with great fleets and armies at her command, she could have bought a large part of Europe, and then have had some money to put by for a rainy day. Now the rainy day has come and finds her with no money put by. In this emergency she has gone begging of the bankers, and has borrowed money to the tune of about thirty-two million dollars from a syndicate of capitalists to tide over her present needs. Whether this sum will be sufficient is seriously doubted in London, where the Portuguese financial situation is pretty well understood. The debt of Portugal is about one hundred and forty dollars *per capita* of her population of five million, or in all some-where in the neighborhood of seven hundred million dollars. The interest charged is about twenty-five million dollars, or considerably more than half the revenue; the deficit within two years has been as high as fourteen million dollars. These figures make London financiers indisposed to come to the assistance of Portugal, more especially as some of their number were already creditors of the Portuguese Government. One of the first purposes to which four million dollars of the recently borrowed money will be put will be to pay Baring Brothers their due. The immediate interest demands took up ten million or twelve million dollars in advance, and the question is, when will Portugal want to borrow again, since the entire amount of the loan is only sufficient for little more than a year's interest? Portugal might do well to realize on her African possessions now. They would net her a good sum, and a nation that has neither gold nor steel cannot hope to hang on to her colonies when such Powers as Germany and England long for them.

THE SUICIDE OF THE POLICE DRILL INSTRUCTOR.

An inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Richard Ryan, storekeeper and musketry instructor at the Central Station, which occurred yesterday morning, was held at the Magistrate's court this afternoon by Mr. Wise, Acting Coroner.

Isabella E. Ryan said—My late husband was storekeeper and musketry instructor at the Central Police Station. I last saw him about a quarter to eight yesterday morning, when he left the house, No. 9, Police Station, to go to his work.

Angus Mann, Acting Inspector of Police, said—About 8.30 a.m. I was on duty in the Charge-room at the Central Station, when I heard a sharp report. I thought it a crack or something falling in the store, so I paid no attention to it. About ten minutes afterwards, Inspector Quinn told me that Ryan had committed suicide in the store. I went there and saw the deceased lying on his face in a pool of blood, with a Martini-Enfield carbine by his side. I examined the carbine and found it had been recently discharged, the bullet having passed through the ceiling above the spot where the body was found. I have known the deceased since his arrival from home some months ago. I know nothing as to his character. I removed the body to the mortuary.

Accused in several parts and the face disfigured caused by a bullet wound, death being instantaneous.

Hip Quan, P.C. 276 said—I am attached to the Police store. About 8.40 a.m. yesterday I went in the store and saw deceased lying on his face on the floor. I called him thinking he was asleep, and receiving no answer I stepped nearer to him and saw a quantity of blood. I then ran out and informed Inspector Quincey.

Inspector Gauld said—At 8.40 I was on the verandah of the Police store. I heard that Ryan had shot himself. I went in the store and saw the deceased lying there quite dead. Deceased formerly belonged to the First Rifle Brigade. He joined the Police on the 23rd May, 1890, and was about fifty years of age. During that time he has been very temperate, and he was recently in hospital through the effects of drink. I last saw him alive on the night previous. He kept the key of the store. From the position of the body I think the deceased shot himself.

His Worship—I find that death resulted from a self-inflicted bullet wound.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

NEW YORK, March 26th.

Influenza in an epidemic form is raging at Chicago where ten thousand cases have already occurred. The hospitals at Pittsburgh are crowded with influenza cases, and the mortality has assumed serious proportions.

LONDON, March 27th.

Parliament has adjourned for the Easter recess; the House of Commons until the sixth April, and the Lords until the fourteenth.

SOFIA, March 27th.

A daring attempt was made to-day upon the life of M. Belcheff, Minister of Finance, whilst entering his own house. The Minister was fired at by a man in the street, who was accompanied by three others. The would-be assassin immediately fled and succeeded in making good his escape. The motive for the crime at present is unknown.

LONDON, March 28th.

Telegrams from Buenos Ayres report the discovery of a conspiracy amongst the Police in that City. A large quantity of arms and ammunition found in their possession has been seized, and numerous arrests have been made.

SOFIA, March 28th.

Further particulars of the shooting of M. Belcheff, Minister of Finance, who has since died from the wound inflicted, places it beyond doubt that the murderer intended to kill M. Stambouloff, the Premier, who was in company with M. Belcheff when the latter was shot. The semi-official Bulgarian organ, the *Svobodna*, says that the crime is another piece of the handiwork of Russian diplomacy. A Greek has been arrested on suspicion and recognized as the purchaser of the revolver found near the scene of the murder, but up to the present the actual murderer has not been found.

NEW YORK, March 28th.

The Irish delegates of both parties so far have met with small success in their mission, the Irish Americans refusing to subscribe funds until the split in the party is settled.

BERLIN, March 28th.

It now appears certain that Prince Bismarck will accept a seat in the Reichstag if returned at the coming by-election in Hanover.

BRUSSELS, March 29th.

The Police at Seraing, last evening, arrested three Socialists who were in secret escorting a cart containing five hundred pounds of dynamite. It is understood the occurrence is connected with the labour troubles that have lately taken place at Seraing.

LONDON, March 30th.

The election campaign in Silgo to replace Mr. MacDonnell, the deceased member, has been the cause of most violent and severe conflicts daily between the partisans of Parnell and McCarthy. Last evening, the police were forced to intervene with fixed bayonets, after the combatants had indulged in furious stone throwing.

SOFIA, March 30th.

The Russian press discussing the assassination of M. Belcheff, Minister of Finance, regards the murder as a proof of the necessity for European intervention in Bulgaria, which has become the refuge for adventurers of the worst kind.

M. Karveloff, leader of the opposition in the Sobranje, who is known to be a Russophile, has been arrested, charged with complicity in the crime.

NEW YORK, March 30th.

News from Pennsylvania reports that a serious strike and riots occurred in the Pittsburgh district. A riotous mob of one thousand men are out on strike to-day and attacked several iron ore works, destroying twelve ovens belonging to the railway and forcing the men employed to desert from work.

WASHINGTON, March 31st.

In consequence of King Humbert being dissatisfied with the slow progress made by the American Government in the adjustment of the difficulty that has arisen through the lynching of eleven Italian subjects at New Orleans, Baron De Fava, the Italian Ambassador, has demanded instructions from his Government, demanding his passports. Congress has been summoned to meet immediately.

TURIN, March 31st.

A meeting of the members of the Bonaparte family has been held here at which it was decided that Prince Victor should be recognised as head of the family, Prince Louis agreeing to the arrangement.

LONDON, April 1st.

The Revenue Returns of Great Britain for the financial year just closed, published to-day, indicate a surplus of one million three hundred thousand pounds above the estimate.

WASHINGTON, April 1st.

It has transpired that Baron De Fava was recalled to indicate the resentment entertained by the Italian Government at the delay that has taken place in making reparation for the lynching of Italian subjects at New Orleans. The United States Press regard the action taken by Italy as hasty and regardless of the difficulty experienced by the Federal Government in controlling the Louisiana legislature. It is now considered unlikely that Congress will meet to discuss the incident.

The cause of delay in making reparation to Italy for the lynching at New Orleans, is owing to the inability of the Central Government to interfere with the Administration of Justice in individual States.

ROME, April 1st.

The Italian Press adopt a moderate tone in discussing the Orleans question; they do not expect any serious complications will arise with America.

LONDON, April 2nd.

The Queen yesterday granted an audience at Grassie to Duple Singh.

SOFIA, April 2nd.

Enquiries into the motive for the murder of M. Belcheff has proved that the crime was the outcome of an extensive conspiracy which was organized at Belgrade and Constantinople; the object was to kill M. Stambouloff, the Premier, and two other ministers.

ROME, April 2nd.

The Italian Government have repeated their demand for an assurance from the Government of the United States that the men concerned in the lynching at New Orleans will be punished after they had been brought to trial. The Italian papers now hint at having the question at issue between the two countries settled by arbitration.

LONDON, April 3rd.

Mr. Thomas Baring, the head of the newly constituted firm of Baring Brothers, died at Rome yesterday.

SERIOUS RISING IN NORTHERN INDIA.

ENGLISH LADIES AND OFFICIAL PRISONERS. CALCUTTA, March 31st.

Mr. Quinton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, who had gone with his staff and an escort of 470 men of the 47th and 48th Gurkhas to Manipur, investigating the affairs of that State, was attacked by the natives. After a fight of 36 hours, the ammunition was expended, the escort dispersed, and the Chief Commissioner and staff were taken prisoners. Lieutenant Brackenbury was killed. Fourteen Europeans, it is feared, have fallen into the hands of the hands of the Manipurians. Mr. Quinton, Mr. Cousin, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Wood, Assistant Commissioners, Mr. Grimwood, the Political Agent, and Mrs. Grimwood, Mr. Melville of the Telegraph Department, Colonel Skene, Captain G. H. Butcher, Lieutenants Lugard and Chatterton, Surgeon Calvert, Lieutenant Simpson, Captain T. S. Bollen, Each Gurkha had 75 rounds of ammunition. River steamers were not chartered by the Government. The 13th Bengal Infantry, the 1st and 2nd Gurkhas, No. 8 Mountain Battery, the 36th Sikhs, and the 3rd Bengal Infantry are going to Manipur.

Some months ago the brother of the then reigning Raja raised the standard of revolt and successfully ejected the King from the throne. The British Residency, we believe, was threatened at the time. The Raja, it is believed, however, was shown to have lost his mental balance, and went on a pilgrimage to Mathura. As the people quietly acquiesced in the revolt, the British Government did not think it necessary to interfere, but recognized the new Raja, who has now revolted again.

SIMLA, March 31st.

Mr. Quinton, the Chief Commissioner, arrived at Manipur on the 22nd inst. with an escort of over 500 men. He immediately held a durbar to arrest Sanpui, the Commander-in-Chief, who had long been inimical to the British Government, and who was instrumental in the recent deposition of the Maharajah. Sanpui failed to appear at the durbar, but collected followers to resist his arrest. The fight began on the 23rd and lasted all day on the 24th, some seven thousand Kukis and Manipuris attacking the escort and after exterminating all their ammunition, were cut up and dispersed. Only one Native, one Sepoy have turned up as yet. Lieut. Brackenbury is known to have been killed. The fate of the other officers and Mrs. Grimwood is uncertain, but grave doubts are felt here as to their survival, considering the character of the enemy.

Lieutenant Cowley with 200 men marched at once for Manipur and was due there on the 27th.

April 1st.

Messrs. Gordon and Wood, Assistant Commissioners, Captain Bollen, Captain Butcher, Lieutenant Lugard, Surgeon Calvert, Mrs. Grimwood and Lieutenant Cowley have reached Lakhimpur in safety. Mr. Gordon wires following details:—On 24th a force of 200 British troops and 1000 Manipuris left Joraj (the Manipur headquarters). The Manipuris resisted and a general engagement followed. Our side ran short of ammunition and retired to the Residency which the Manipuris attacked and shelled with their guns. The Chief Commissioner went out to meet Joraj half way between the Residency and the Palace, but was treacherously taken prisoner, together with Colonel Skene and Messrs. Grimwood, Cousins and Simpson. The Manipuris then renewed their attack on the Residency. At 2 a.m. on the 25th the partition was obliged to retreat. They fought their way across the hills until they fortunately met Lieutenant Cowley's detachment with which they arrived safely at Lakhimpur. The Residency is said to have been burnt. Mr. Melville, Superintendent of Telegraphs, is reported to have been captured.

CALCUTTA, April 3rd.

Captain Bollen wires as follows:—Our casualties are:—

4th Gurkhas—Lieutenant Lugard, 97 men are missing out of the 103 with him.

4th Gurkhas—Lieutenant Simpson, and two native officers prisoners; two sepoy killed; 67 missing, including all the Lakhimpur detachment.

4th Gurkhas—Lieutenant Brackenbury, one subadar, two havildars, and ten sepoy all killed; 9 sepoy wounded; 63 missing.

Further details of fight at Manipur state, that the Chief Commissioner decided to capture Joraj in the Palace, remaining under cover of the outer enclosure of the Palace. Joraj was captured, but the latter enclosure was defended by four mountain guns, seven pounders, and six thousand men. In this part of the engagement Lieutenant Brackenbury and 21 sepoy were killed; the ammunition running short the force withdrew into the Residency, only 200 yards distant. The Manipuris guns were then moved to the outer enclosure of the palace and the Residency shelled. In the afternoon an armistice was arranged. Mr. Quinton, Colonel Skene, Mr. Grimwood, Lieutenant Simpson, Mr. Cousins and one bugler went half way to the palace to meet the Joraj; they were pushed inside the palace, only the bugler escaped. Some time afterwards the guns recommenced playing on the Residency; one shell struck the stables killing all the horses. At 2 a.m. the shells dismantled the Residency building which was then evacuated by side gates, the Manipuris remaining under cover of the palace wall. Only a trifling opposition was offered to the retreat. When the party met Captain Cowley's detachment on the morning of the 26th they had no food or ammunition left. Besides the troops moving up from Calcutta, 4th Gurkhas from Shillong, Debrogha and Gauhati are en route for Kohima. At Kohima all is reported to be well.

The frontier military police under Captain Mackintosh have already taken the offensive. On the 31st inst., with 150 men, he entered the Manipur territory and after a sharp skirmish captured Mao stockade which was held by the enemy with some force. Mathanah and two Naga villages concerned in killing the fugitive sepoy were burnt down. This smart movement has arrested the possible danger of an attack on Kohima.

The Manipuris had at their disposal two mountain guns presented by the British Government during the late Burma War, and several thousand musketry rifles; also presented on different occasions, besides a small part of Artillery of their own.

The 7th Infantry now at Saugor embarks for Burma on Monday next.

Fifty men of the Pioneer Company of the Calcutta Volunteers have volunteered to go to Manipur.

Brigadier-General Collett, Commanding the Assam District, will command the expedition against Manipur.

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tamsui, and April, 1891.

On the 28th ult., the Foreign residents of Hobe were invited by the Rev. Dr. Mackay to witness a very interesting function—a native wedding at Tamsui, the contracting parties being *Pekohans* (natives of the plains). The ceremony took place in the native chapel, and was attended by many natives and the bulk of the foreign community. As a prelude to the ceremony, short addresses were delivered by the Rev. Doctor's numerous staff of preachers and students, and the writer was assured by a resident acquainted with the local dialect, that many of the lecturers showed a thorough knowledge of the subjects treated, reflecting much credit on their teacher, Dr. Mackay. At the conclusion of the addresses, the wedding party, having taken up their positions in front of the nuptial, Dr. Mackay read the marriage service. The bridegroom showed the knowledge of his responsibilities by the difficulty he found in uttering the responses, and the bride was most becomingly bashful, and completely lost her voice. The knot being tied, the bridal party, and the foreign and native guests, adjourned to the vestry, where the bride handed round tea and cake. If the fact of securing the first sweet from the cake bears any significance, a well-known member of our community will verily have something in store for him.

An unfortunate accident occurred in the engine-room of the *Halong* on her last trip from Amoy to this port, by which the 2nd engineer, Mr. Stapan, had both feet badly scalded. He is, however, progressing favourably.

The F. T. Co.'s steamship *Smith* is in Hongkong qualifying for a passenger certificate. It will require something like \$9,000 to render her efficient. The *Cassi* is likely to be placed temporarily on the Amoy run when she returns from your port.

The ten years are beginning to come over, so there will be some little opposition between the steamers conveying them.—*Mercury*.

MOURDIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

March 16th.

At last there is some hope of our Manchurian railway becoming a reality. Towards the end of last year it was reported that the project had been indefinitely postponed, owing to the large demands for relief in the flooded districts of Chibi having emptied the Imperial Treasury. Others thought that the proposal to build the line had been made simply as a counter-blast to Russia in Siberia, and that the Government was seriously meant to carry it into effect. Now, however, I learn from a thoroughly reliable source that work may be started any time. Some time ago additional surveys in the Shinghing Province were made by one of the engineers. The route has not yet been finally decided upon. There are two alternatives. It may run either from Shan Hai Kuan due east to the port of Newchwang, thence north-east via Liaoyang and Moukden, or after leaving Shan Hai Kuan, proceed in a north-easterly direction, following the Imperial road, via Chinchow, Kiangsun, and Moukden, and thence north to a junction near the latter place for the Chingchow and Moukden branch. The latter route will probably be chosen, not only because it is shorter, but also because it traverses a rich and prosperous country; and at Hsin-min-tsun it would be fed by an enormous trade from the great north-west. In any case it must keep 40 ft west of Moukden, lest the *ling shui* of the Imperial and other tombs be injured. So anxious were the authorities on this score that on the maps originally supplied to the Foreign engineers the Imperial tombs were intentionally placed west of the city instead of east.

Manchuria has suddenly risen into prominence. Its coal mines are now attracting the attention of a syndicate of foreign and native agents. The other day I was told that a short time previous to the death of the Seventh Prince, that liberal minded statesman obtained an Imperial Decree sanctioning important mining operations in Manchuria, especially for the purpose of securing four different centres, namely Chinchow, Fochow, Liaoyang, and east of Moukden. "Meanwhile it is premature to mention names; but to-day I translated two important letters from Foreign representatives of the syndicate to a high official at present staying here. Foreign engineers are expected soon with boring and testing implements.

Manchuria is full of wealth, and China will not part with it to Russia without a severe struggle; but she is altogether unprepared for it now. With the exception of Hanchun the whole north-east is quite unprotected.

Curious accidents sometimes lead to medical men in China. To-day a foreign doctor here was invited to examine the foot of a native young lady of eighteen, hidden behind curtains. Only the foot was visible. Being near her marriage day it was not proper for her to be seen by men, especially strangers.

Sometimes a lady of a similar case where an extremely shy young lady with a bad cough pushed out a hand from between two curtains for the foreign doctor to examine her pulse.—*Mercury*.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

April 4th, 1891.

I see by your morning contemporary that Gen. T. Schneil has contradicted what appeared in my former letter that appeared in the *Mercury* about the bursting of two Krupp guns. In his letter to the *N. C. Daily News* of the 30th ult., he styles himself Chief Instructor of Artillery for the Northern Defence; what that may mean I cannot say. However, that is not the point in question. Gen. Schneil states that the whole damage amounted to some mere scratches and chips in the rifling. The accident I referred to was reported to me by those who ought to know, and since I read Gen. Schneil's letter in the *N. C. Daily News* I have made further enquiries, and I send the report, in Chinese, from his Ex. T. H. Feng-long of Port Arthur to his Ex. Li Hung-chang, the Viceroy, relating to the bursting of two Krupp guns on the 28th October, 1890, the rough translation of which is as follows:—"What a terrible accident! The whole damage amounted to some mere scratches and chips in the rifling. 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